

AFTER/AFTER ACTION REPORT  
38TH CAVALRY RECONNAISSANCE SQUADRON (4000)  
PERIOD 1-31 DECEMBER 44

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS INDEX

Troop B

Report of Capt. Joseph R. Sain, Commanding  
Report of Lt. W. J. Yontz, Platoon Leader  
Extract of Statement Lt. A.H.M. Shehab, Platoon Leader  
Affidavits: Sgt. C. E. Oxenham, Pvt. A. B. Carpenter, Tec 5 F. T. Misch,  
Cpl W. E. Brown, Pfc. B. F. Riegel.

Troop C

Report of Capt. E. L. Rogers, **Commanding**  
Report of Lt. R. V. Coleman, Platoon Leader  
Report of Lt. J. J. O'Brien, Platoon Leader  
Report of Sgt. C. R. West, Platoon Sgt.  
Report of Tec 5 A. J. Andersen  
Affidavit: Tec 4 A. P. Strainis

Troop E

Report of Missiles Fired by Troop E  
Report of S/Sgt W. F. Fisher  
Report of S/Sgt W. Zuckoff

Company F

Report of Lt. R. J. Cullinan, Platoon Leader  
Report of H. E. Ketz, Platoon Leader  
Report of S/Sgt B. C. Bielicki, Platoon Sgt.  
Report of S/Sgt K. C. Lindquist, Platoon Sgt.  
Report of Tec 5 J. C. Gier  
Certificates: Lt. R. J. Cullinan; Lt. H. E. Ketz.  
Affidavits: S/Sgt K. C. Lindquist, S/Sgt B. C. Bielicki; Sgt M. P. Messano.

Miscellaneous

S-2 Estimate of Enemy Forces to Immediate Front of 38th Cav Recon Sq, 17  
Dec 44  
Consolidated Interrogation Report, IPW Team # 11, Hq V Corps, 28 Jan 45.  
Extract: PJ Interrogation Report, IPW Team # 11, Hq V Corps, 19 Jan 45.  
Extract: Military Government Periodic Report, Det. 1-4, Co. G, 2nd ECA  
Regiment, 22 Dec 44.  
Letter: Colonel Lt. Freiherr Von der Heyde  
Certificate: Lt. J. A. Comfort, 62nd Armd F. A. Bn  
Certificate: Maj. D. W. Nay, S-3, 62nd Armd F. A. Bn  
Affidavit: Pfc J. B. Pirera, 17th FA QBSn Bn  
Extract: S-3 Report of Firing, 186th F. A. Bn  
Report: Capt G. R. Frink; Consolidated Report of Dead Germans Reported by  
Troop C.

TROOP COMMANDER, TROOP B, 38TH CAV REG SQ. 16-17-18 December 1944.

On the 16th of December 1944 Troop B was on a defensive line extending North to South (K945234) to (K932201) Born Sheet 8-1 Scale 1/100,000. All 3 reconnaissance platoons were committed on the 3400 yard front, 3rd platoon on the North, 1st Platoon in the center, and the 2nd Platoon on the South, each platoon responsible for at least 1100 yards.

The Troop forward C.P. was located at the southern end of the 3400 yard and this location provided excellent approaches to the 1st and 2nd Platoons. The rear C.P. of the troop was located at 910196 and all supplies and administration was handled at this end. In addition the troop was responsible for two positions at 944202, and at 944198. The position at 944202 was maintained by 4 headquarters men equipped with 1 - 509 radio and 1 L.M.G. The position at 944198 was occupied by 6 men of the 2nd Platoon with radio and L.M.G. The last two mentioned positions were re-inforced with 12 engineers of the 146th Eng. Bn. on the night of the 16th of December. There were no units in support of the troop on this date.

At 0545A of the 16th the enemy began shelling the Troop sector with all types of artillery ranging from mortars to 180mm and continued the shelling until dusk. It was estimated 1000 rounds fell in the immediate troop area during the period - 0545A to 1800A and thereafter only a harassing fire was maintained by the enemy. The troop being well dug in suffered no casualties to personnel although quite a few direct hits were made on the houses formerly occupied by the platoons. Vehicles and equipment also suffered slight damage. Telephone communication within the troop and to Squadron was severe and radio communication was thereafter maintained. The Troop in addition to their own transmissions also carried traffic for Troop A and Squadron, the 3rd platoon acting as relay station. Troop E, being out of communication with other units was sent an armored car from B Troop to regain communication. Two radio operators, T/5 Gordon Hansen and Pvt. Gine Garduol, both of headquarters platoon volunteered to go to the rear C.P. and establish communication for E Troop. This necessitated driving a 1/4 ton through a heavily shelling on the Monschau - Eupen road to the rear C.P. and then to obtain an armored car there and drive it to Troop E's C.P. The two men successfully accomplished their mission although their 1/4 ton was hit by shrapnel.

With an enemy attack imminent it was decided to issue additional ammo and supplies to all platoons. 1/Sgt. Johnson supervised the additional issuing of ammo and supplies and was assisted by the ammo corporal and all available men (cooks and mechanics). In spite of the heavy shelling all platoons were supplied with and additional base load of ammo and extra days R rations.

As darkness fell all platoons remained on the alert and constant contact patrolling was maintained between all positions, which in some cases were 500 yds apart. Planes reported over the troop area were identified as enemy and later reports of flares and paratroopers being dropped were verified. Orders were issued to all platoons to begin lateral patrolling behind our lines. Reports by the lateral patrols of finding parachutes and supply packs were received at the troop C.P. but no enemy contact was made. A security patrol of eight men was formed at the troop rear C.P. to patrol the Monschau-Eupen road and the immediate area. No contact was made by this patrol but two parachutes were found.

The morning of the 17th found the troop awaiting an attack that finally came at 1145A. The enemy at this time had infiltrated a reported 65 men between the 1st and 2nd platoons and who were now behind our lines. Another report of more enemy coming from the East was received at the troop C.P. The left flank of the 2nd platoon engaged the enemy with Machine Guns, 37mm and small arms but were forced to move back or be completely out off.

The extreme left position of the 2nd platoon consisting of 4 men, Pvt's. Bottini, Lewis, MacDonald, and Jacobs were forced out of their position and occupied a nearby house where they remained for four hours engaged in a fire fight with the enemy. The remainder of the 2nd platoon and two attached T.D.'s assembled at the C.R. at 930205 and formed a defensive line to prevent the enemy from reaching the Monschau - Eupen road.

The 1st platoon engaged the enemy to the front and to its south flank to prevent the enemy from enlarging the breakthrough. The platoon was also given the mission to secure their rear and to prevent the enemy from extending to the North. Six men, one from each position volunteered for this mission. Sgt. Ruten in charge of the detail and the other five volunteers engaged to enemy patrols at a considerable distance and in each instance the enemy withdrew to the South.

The 3rd platoon although under a heavy artillery barrage had little action to their front and was ordered to patrol the woods to their rear and to drive the enemy to the south. Sgt. Becker and five men began their patrolling and encountered 18 enemy paratroopers at 935229 and the fire of the 3rd platoon patrol drove the 18 paratroopers to the south. Following the enemy the patrol captured one of the enemy paratroopers who was wounded and lagged behind. The remaining 17 paratroopers escaped into the heavily wooded area.

The forward C.P. of the troop found itself engaged with the enemy and all available men formed a defensive line on a hedgerow 100 yards in front of the C.P. The enemy fire accounted for the one casualty in the troop, an enemy machine gun hitting the man in 3 places and fatally wounding him. The fire of the troop C.P. weapons forced the enemy force of approximately 30 men to withdraw but not without suffering numerous casualties. Twenty enemy fighters came out of the East to strafe the Troop sector. Cpl. Fitzpatrick mounted in an Armored Car at the troop C.P. turned his 50 Calibre towards a low strafing plane and a burst from his gun set the plane on fire. The enemy plane was seen to crash in enemy territory. No serious damage was sustained by the troop from the enemys plane actions.

The 2nd platoon during this time remained on the defensive line to which they had moved. Two tanks from Gs F and 20 Engineers from the 146th Eng. Bn. were sent to the aid of the troop. With the additional re-inforcements it was decided to counterattack the enemy and regain the original positions of the 2nd platoon to prevent further infiltration by the enemy. A request was made of Squadron Headquarters to send a party through the town and woods to the rear of the troop area. It was estimated that at least 150 Germans were now in the area formerly occupied by the 2nd Platoon and were being moved into the area.

The order to attack was issued to the 2nd platoon and it's attachments of 2 light tanks and 20 engineers. The 1st Platoon was ordered to stand fast in their positions and to extend their right flank to the south to force the enemy towards the attacking 2nd Platoon. The 3rd was ordered to stand fast in their positions and to continue scouring the woods to their South to drive the enemy in that direction. The request for additional aid from Squadron resulted in a company of Armored Infantry being dismounted in an area 2 miles to the rear of Troop B and ordered to clear the enemy from the woods to the East.

The enemy by this time was entrenched in the numerous houses and along the hedgerows in the former positions of the 2nd Platoon and as the attack of the 2nd Platoon began it was met by a heavy artillery barrage of 105mm calibre. The half-track of the 2nd Platoon suffered a direct hit and was demolished. The order to speed up the attack was given and the artillery barrage passed over the heads of the attacking force and the Platoon supported by 2 Armored Cars and 2 Light Tanks moved towards the enemy laying a heavy machine gun fire as they advanced. The supporting tanks and armored cars fired into the houses and the attack forced the enemy to give up their positions or be killed. The heavy fire of the attacking force forced the enemy to withdraw towards the gap and from this point it was necessary to leave the supporting weapons behind and continue the attack dismounted. The supporting tanks and armored cars remained in supporting positions and covered the advance of the dismounted men. At this point the 1st Platoon increased the pressure on the enemy from the North and the 2nd Platoon was able to regain all their positions. The house occupied by the 4 men, Ptes. Bottini, Lewis, Mac Donald, and Jacobs was reached and it was evident the enemy had paid dearly in their attempts to dislodge the 4 men from the house they occupied.

The attack to close the gap made by the enemy continued and the enemy was slowly forced to withdraw. The enemy attempted to support their forces when 75 enemy were seen coming from the draw at 944206. Artillery fire was adjusted on this area and dispersed the supporting enemy force to the East. The 2nd Platoon continued their attack and contact was made with the 1st Platoon closing the gap made by the enemy forces. The line was immediately re-inforced as the enemy now broken into small groups continued to send sporadic machine gun fire towards our line. Small skirmishes continued behind our lines resulting in more enemy dead and numerous prisoners being taken. With darkness falling a small force was sent into the draw at 944206 by the 2nd Platoon. The enemy dead reported in the draw was reported to be 42, eight PW's were brought back by the patrol party.

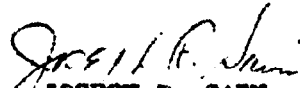
Company A of the 47th Armored Infantry working in the wooded area encountered the enemy paratroopers driven South by the 3rd Platoon patrol and after a brief firefight the enemy were taken prisoners. Additional patrolling resulted in the capture of more PW's.

All platoons were ordered to remain on the alert throughout the night and lateral patrolling was continued throughout the night. A company of medium tanks was attached to the troop bringing the total number of attachments in the troop to 392 men. The Troop consisting of a Company of Armored Infantry, a company of Medium Tanks, Two Platoons of TD's and one platoon of Engineers making a total of 520 men to feed and in addition to supply with ammo and gasoline.

Another attempt to penetrate our lines was made on the night of the 17th in the vicinity of the headquarters platoon outpost at 944202. A fifteen man enemy patrol was seen coming through the draw. An ambush was quickly decided upon and the enemy patrol was permitted to penetrate beyond the machine gun outpost. Well concealed the ambush waited until the enemy patrol was within 10 feet of their machine gun and then opened fire. The initial burst killed the 1st and 2nd man of the patrol, wounded the 3rd and 4th man and riflemen accounting for the next three. The remaining eight men of the enemy patrol attempting to withdraw were pinned down by the outpost machine gun and were later taken prisoners.

No further attempts to penetrate our lines were made by the enemy. Investigation of the troop area on the 18th revealed over a hundred enemy dead in addition to the 42 already reported. Internal security patrols accounted for an additional 22 PW's on the 18th. Additional searches were made on the 19th and 20th but no enemy were found to be in our area.

Troop B's losses during the period 16th December to 19th December amounted to one man fatally wounded in action.



JOSEPH R. SAIN

Captain, Trp B, 38th Cav Recon Sq.  
Commanding

REPORT OF 1ST LT. W. J. YONTZ, PLATOON LEADER,  
2nd Platoon, Troop "B"  
Action of 17 December, 1944.

On the morning of 17 December 1944 at approximately 0600 moderately heavy enemy artillery was received in my platoon area, that extended from (931205) along the road northeast to (937209). The line consisted of two armored car positions, one at (931205), one at (933207); two light .30 cal machine guns, one at (932204), one at (934207); and one .50 cal. machine gun position at (935208). The platoon had as attachments two M-10 tank destroyers at (932305) and (934208). Immediately following the artillery barrage that lasted about one hour we heard enemy small arms fire in the vicinity of the draw leading up to "F" Co and "C" Troop at (941199). The platoon was alerted and when the enemy was hit hard by fire from "C" and "F" they came back north up the draw; and at approximately 0845A we were hit at the north end of the platoon sector by small arms fire. Then the enemy fanned out and the complete area was brought under enemy small arms fire. We returned the fire but the enemy had the advantage of the hedgerows and also superior numbers but were chased back by fire from the armored car (.50 and .30) at (931205). They then swung north about 150 yds and came up between the tank destroyer at (932205) and the armored car at (933207). An estimated 10 or 15 broke through there. The artillery had broken all of the telephone lines. We were unable to get radio contact with the C. P. until about 0930A and had no lateral radio contact between the sections of the platoon. At about 1030 the tank destroyer at (932204) was forced to pull back to the crossroads at (931205) and about 30 minutes later the armored car and .30 cal. positions at (933207) (934207) also drew back to vicinity of the same crossroads, leaving the .50 cal position at (935208) manned by Tec 5 Jacobs, Pfc Lewis, Pvts McDonalds and Bottin out off and without communication. The tank destroyer at (934208) was drawn back at about 1100 and was used to further strengthen the line that was being built up north from the crossroads (931205).

In the meantime reserves were called for and at about 1200A Captain Sain brought up two squads from the 146th Engineers and two light tanks from "F" Company, 38th Cav. The counterattacking force was organized in about 15 minutes and started to move northeast from the aforementioned crossroads led by Lieutenant Anderson and two heavy machine sections from the engineers. Followed by one light tank and an armored car driven by Pfc Thomas and Gunner Sgt Oxenham and Assistant Gunner Pvt Johnson from the 38th Cav, the force proceeded northeast from crossroads using the road as the center axis encountering heavy small arms fire. By 1330A they succeeded in reoccupying the positions (933207). One heavy machine gun section was put into position at (935208) and succeeded in setting up a base of fire to allow men to cross the road and enter the house on the left side of the road there. Meanwhile the house at (933209) was set afire by the .50 cal. from the car manned by Sgt. Oxenham.

Staff Sergeant Fisher and his section of F.O. from "E" Troop, who had joined up earlier, accompanied Staff Sergeant Whittard, Lieutenant Anderson, Lieutenant Yontz, and four engineers into the house at (935209), the objective being to rescue and reinforce the men at (935208). Upon leaving the house at (935208) at the north side we observed enemy in the hedgerow about 300 yds north and west of the house. One clip of ammunition fired from each of 6 M1 rifles brought out 3 prisoners from the hedgerow and two dead were left there. When we reached the house that was our objective, we found the men unhurt and some 5 or 6 enemy dead lying around close to the house..

Staff Sergeant Fisher had taken up an O.P. in the house at (935208) and succeeded in firing his troop on targets (enemy personnel) in the draw at (941205).

By 1530A the original line had been reestablished and strengthened and only a few snipers were bothering us. However, an estimated 50 -60 enemy had succeeded in going through us at a point around Staff House where a gap existed between the 2d and 1st platoons of "B" Troop.

At 1600A Lt Bryant from the 186th F.A. (155mm) joined us and set up an O.P. with Staff Sergeant Whittard's section at (933207).

At about 1700A an estimated 30 - 40 enemy tried to break through from the draw at (941205). They were picked up by Lt Bryant and he brought arty fire on them, inflicting heavy casualties and stopping the attack.

Captain Sain brought up one platoon of M-4 Tanks about dusk and they were held in mobile reserve; also the tank destroyers moved back at dusk to their original position.

Lt Bryant fired on the aforementioned draw during the night to prevent further concentrations of the enemy..

Staff Sergeant Fisher also fired on enemy observed in that vicinity.

Telephone communication was restored; also radio, some time prior to darkness.

*W. J. Yonte*  
W. J. YONTE  
1st Lt, CAV

EXTRACT OF STATEMENT OF LT. ALFRED H.M. SHENAB IN RECOMMENDATION OF AWARD  
FOR SERGEANT FLORENTIUS BECKER

On 17 December 1944, the enemy launched a full scale attack against defensive positions of the 38th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron in the Mon-schau sector. The third platoon, Troop B, was defending on a front of 1000 yards, opposite the enemy occupied village of Konzen. About 500 enemy para-troop had been reported dropped in the rear areas on the preceding night.

As the German attack was launched along the entire Squadron front, para-troop patrols became active in the rear of our lines and the third platoon, Troop B, was immediately subjected to organized sniping fire, coming from their rear. Reports from adjacent units indicated that twenty paratroopers had moved into the immediate area. Due to the wide front on which they were employed, no organic element of the platoon could be spared from the defensive system to meet this threat in force. The few available men were rounded up and Sergeant Becker volunteered to lead the four man combat patrol against this insidious enemy.

/s/ ALFRED H.M. SHENAB  
/s/ ALFRED H.M. SHENAB  
2nd Lt., Cavalry,  
Comdg. 3rd Platoon, Troop B.

"A CERTIFIED TRUE COPY"

*Charles E. Rousek Jr.*

CHARLES E. ROUSEK JR.  
Major, 38th Cav Recon Sq (Mech)  
Executive Officer

A F F I D A V I T

HQ 38TH CAV RON SQ (MECL))

APC 230 U. S. ARMY )

CHARLES E. OKENHAM, Sergeant, 33562228, Troop B, after first being duly sworn on oath deposes and says:

On the morning of 18th of December 1944, I was part of a patrol investigating the area to our front. When we reached the vicinity of 941202, we saw the dead bodies of some 40 or 50 Germans killed by Machine Gun and Artillery Fire the previous day.

Further deponent sayeth not.

/s/ Charles E. Okenham,  
/t/ CHARLES E. OKENHAM,  
Sergeant, Troop B.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 24th day of January 1945.

/s/ George L. Erwin Jr.,  
/t/ GEORGE L. ERWIN JR.,  
1st Lt, 38th Cav Ron Sq (M).  
Adjutant.

A F F I D A V I T

HQ 38TH CAV RON SQ (MECL))

APC 230 U. S. ARMY )

AARON B. CARPENTER, Private, 15340041, Troop B, after first being duly sworn on oath deposes and says:

On the morning of 18th of December 1944, I was part of a patrol investigating the area to our front. When we reached the vicinity of 941202, we saw the dead bodies of some 40 or 50 Germans killed by Machine Gun and Artillery Fire the previous day.

Further deponent sayeth not.

/s/ Aaron B. Carpenter,  
/t/ AARON B. CARPENTER,  
Private, Troop B.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 24th day of January 1945.

/s/ George L. Erwin Jr.,  
/t/ GEORGE L. ERWIN JR.,  
1st Lt, 38th Cav Ron Sq  
Adjutant.

A F F I D A V I T

HQ 38TH CAV RON SQ (MECL))

APC 230 U. S. ARMY )

FRED T. MISCH, 35052736, Technician Grade Five, Troop B, after first being duly sworn on oath deposes and says:

On the morning of 18th of December 1944, I was part of a patrol investigating the area to our front. When we reached the vicinity of 941202, we saw the dead bodies of some 40 or 50 Germans killed by Machine Gun and Artillery Fire the previous day.

Further deponent sayeth not.

/s/ Fred T. Misch,  
/t/ FRED T. MISCH,  
Tec 5, Troop B.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 24th day of January 1945.

/s/ George L. Erwin Jr.,  
/t/ GEORGE L. ERWIN JR.,  
1st Lt, 38th Cav Ron Sq  
Adjutant.

CERTIFIED TRUE COPIES:

*Charles E. Rousek Jr.*  
CHARLES E. ROUSEK JR.,  
Major, 38th Cav Ron Sq  
Executive Officer.



A F F I D A V I T

HQ 38TH CAV RCN SQ (MECZ))

APC 230 U. S. ARMY )

WALTER E. BROWN, Corporal, 34763179, being first duly sworn on oath deposes and says:

On December 17, 1944 the German Infantry made an attack on the 2nd platoon of B Troop and the 3rd platoon of Co F of the 38th Cav Rcn Sq. After the battle, in which we pushed them back, we went out on a security patrol to the draw which was about 600 yards in front of our outpost. In the draw (943215) I saw around 57 dead Germans. There were a number of dead laying in the hay field in front of our outposts (936213). The following day we went back to the draw where most of the Germans were and a German aid man was there with three wounded Germans who were taken prisoners by us and evacuated.

Further deponent sayeth not.

/s/ Walter E. Brown,  
/t/ WALTER E. BROWN,  
Corporal, Troop B.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 24th day of January 1945.

/s/ George L. Erwin Jr.,  
/t/ GEORGE L. ERWIN JR.,  
1st Lt, 38th Cav Rcn Sq (Mecz),  
Adjutant.

A F F I D A V I T

HQ 38TH CAV RCN SQ (MECZ))

APC 230 U. S. ARMY )

BERNARD F. RIEGEL, Pfc, 36746676, being first duly sworn on oath deposes and says:

On the morning of December 17, the Germans made an attack on the second platoon of B Troop and the third platoon of F Company. After an artillery barrage the Germans started coming in our positions. Then a battle started and we pushed them back out of our left position which they had overrun. After the battle we sent out a security patrol and found in the hay field and draw in front of our positions at (941214) about 66 dead Germans. We sent another patrol the following day and found the Germans had carried most of the bodies away during the night.

Further deponent sayeth not.

/s/ Bernard F. Riegel  
/t/ BERNARD F. RIEGEL  
Pfc., Troop B.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 24th day of January 1945.

/s/ George L. Erwin Jr.,  
/t/ GEORGE L. ERWIN JR.,  
1st Lt, 38th Cav Rcn Sq (Mecz),  
Adjutant.

CERTIFIED TRUE COPIES:

*Charles E. Rouse Jr.*  
CHARLES E. ROUSE JR.,  
Major, 38th Cav Rcn Sq (Mecz),  
Executive Officer.

REPORT OF CAPTAIN ELMER L. ROGERS,  
COMMANDING OFFICER, TROOP C, 38TH CAV RON SQ (MECZ)

The following report on events of 16, 17, 18 December 1944 exclusive of those events which are covered by reports of the platoon leaders is respectfully submitted.

At 1525A 16 December the area of the OP was struck by a heavy barrage of mortar, artillery and rockets. Entire troop was alerted and communication lines checked. Wire was repaired to Squadron Headquarters by Tec 4 Gates and Major Rousek, Squadron Executive Officer.

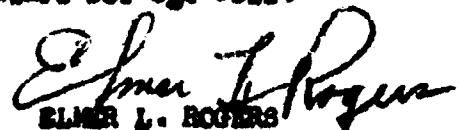
At 1200 another barrage hit the OP area wounding Sgt T.I. Clark and damaging some kitchen equipment.

During the day the troop commander and executive officer inspected the entire troop position to insure that everything was all right. The radio crew performed excellent work in this and succeeding days in keeping wire lines repaired.

At 1700A 16 December one platoon of the 146th Combat Eng'r's Bn was attached. This platoon was attached by squads and smaller groups to strengthen existing positions.

At 1800A two 57mm guns of the 47th Armored Infantry Battalion were attached and towed by 1/4 ton trucks and manpower to the hill top where they were put into position near post number 10.

On the 18th Sgt Roll assisted in the defense of HOFEN HILL as well as reporting to this and squadron headquarters the situation in that sector. An eyewitness account of his activities is given attached affidavit of Tec 4 Stragis, which was made in connection with a recommended award for Sgt Roll.

  
ELMER L. ROGERS

Captain, Cavalry  
Commanding Troop C, 38th Cav Ron Sq (MECZ)

REPORT OF 1st Lt. RAPHAEL V. COLEMAN, PLATOON LEADER  
3rd Platoon, Troop C, 38 Cav. Ren. Sq.

16-17 Dec, 1944

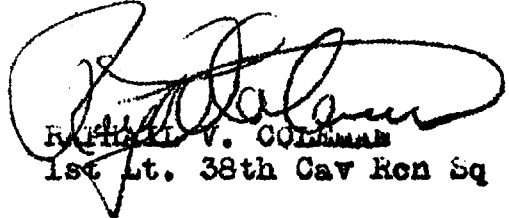
At 0530A on the 16th Pfc Goodrich on guard at post No. 4 at K 945193, alerted the platoon on my order. A heavy barrage of rockets, mortar, and artillery struck the line of the trench occupied by my platoon. Night shells entered the trench. The men immediately manned their battle stations. At 0600 enemy planes appeared to our front, overhead and to our right dropping flares which lit up the whole area. At 0630 the barrage lifted somewhat. At 0730 the listening post at 948191 (Cpl Reinking, Tec 5 Baird and Pvt Corbin) observed small enemy groups moving to our front and to our right. My post No. 4 at 947192 (Tec Emmett, Pvt Hall, Pvt White, Pvt Gasper, and Pvt Morris) opened fire on these groups with machine gun and rifle fire, causing them to disperse and withdraw to their nearest pillbox. About 0800 my No. 3 post at 945194 observed field equipped Germans going into a bunker situated in vicinity of K 945194, and Sgt Engel, Pfc Maney and Pvt Wisniewski opened fire with a 50 Cal MG and rifle fire causing casualties and panic. The rest of the 16th was spent in directing artillery fire of B Troop and the 62nd Armd FA Bn on enemy personnel seen moving about by members of the 3rd platoon.

The evening of the 16th two P-47s appeared over Imgenbroich, bombing and strafing. The rest of the night was comparatively quiet with occasional enemy artillery rounds landing near and beyond the trenches towards the town of MONSCHAU.

Meanwhile, a patrol consisting of Sgt Giannuzzi, Pfc Maney, Pvt Muro, Tech 5 Trief went out at 1800 the evening of the 16th. They set up a listening post at K 948186, returning to "F" Co. outposts at 0800 the morning of the 17th. They set the post up again at 1200, when they spotted a 15 man enemy patrol heading towards F Company's outpost. Being too far away for effective fire they called F Company's outpost by radio. "F" Co. called for "C" Troop's mortar fire which killed 12 and wounded two of the enemy. This patrol kept their position with the exception of Sgt Giannuzzi who was relieved by Cpl Lantz on the 18th until late afternoon of the 18th when we were relieved by the 47th Infantry Regiment of the Ninth Division.

About 0800 the morning of the 17th our listening post at 947194, composed of Cpl Reinking, Tec 5 Baird and Pvt Corbin, heard what appeared to be horse drawn vehicles in the vicinity of 952195. They called for and directed fire of the 62nd Armd Field Artillery causing dispersion and casualties among the Germans, as evidenced by moans and which were heard in the vicinity. Also one vehicle was seen to burn. Post 4 at 947192 composed now of (Tec 5 Emmett, Pvt Hall, White and Morris and Pfc Gasper) observed a group of enemy working along the hedgerow toward them. They opened up with machine gun and rifle fire causing casualties and withdrawal to a bunker at 952191. Around 0900A our listening post No 3 at 945194 observed approximately 50 enemy approaching their position. They opened fire on them and withdrew to their position in the trenches; then Lt. Coleman the F.O. of the 62nd Armd FA Bn directed artillery on the enemy causing casualties and forcing them to withdraw to a bunker in the vicinity of Imgenbroich. During the barrage one German observer was seen entering the house where the listening post had been posted. I had a T.D. that was set up behind us to fire direct fire on this spot. Rounds from the T.D. entered the house, presumably killing the observer. Then our OP No. 3 saw 20 men going down the draw to our left. We got a call telling us not to fire on them as they wanted to surrender.

About 15 minutes later an additional 75 enemy were seen on the hillside to our left in the vicinity of A 940198. We opened up on them with both 30 and 50 cal MG and rifle fire, causing casualties and dispersion. We kept firing on them until they went out of sight in the canyon to our left, in the vicinity of A941199. (Sgt Engel, Sgt Clark, Tec 5 Letts, Tec 5 Niewinski, Pfc Corbin, Pfc Wisniewski and Fulkerson were in position when they were first observed). The rest of the day was spent returning artillery and small arms fire. Ten o'clock the night of the 17th a barrage of 300 to 400 enemy rounds landed near and beyond the trenches into the town of MONSCHAU. The day of 18th was spent in the exchange of artillery and small arms fire.

  
Richard V. Coleman  
1st Lt. 38th Cav Recon Sq

REPORT OF 1st Lt JAMES J. O'BRIEN  
Platoon leader, 1st Platoon, Tr C

At 0530A the morning of December 16 the Germans opened up with an intense artillery and mortar barrage coming from behind the town of Ingenbroich at about 960205 (Map Germany-8402 sheet MONSCHAU 1/25,000) which landed on and around our positions 5, 6, 7, and 8 located at 946185, 946187, 947188, and 945185 respectively. The barrage lasted until 0600A and was followed immediately by a dismounted attack by about sixty men coming towards our position number seven from the vicinity of Monserath, 953191. The approaching enemy was first discovered by our patrol led by Tec 5 Van Order, which had been patrolling along the road west of Monserath in the vicinity of 949190. The patrol reported this information into the Troop CP by radio and artillery fire from E Troop and mortar fire from our own mortars, located at 934187, were requested by radio and brought to bear on the enemy in the vicinity of 951191. The patrol withdrew to higher ground at 947188 and remained in observation and directing the artillery and mortar fire which was continued until after daylight, about 0800A.

The attack was broken up and about fifteen casualties were known to have been inflicted on the fleeing enemy. The remainder were observed by our patrol, led by Tec 5 Jack L. Van Order retreating in disorder in the vicinity of 952192 towards the town of Monserath trying to escape the fire of our artillery and mortars.

In the course of this action one German managed to infiltrate into our lines near our position number six (946187) by slipping through the woods in the vicinity of 948189. Apparently not realizing how near he was to one of our positions and was surprised and taken prisoner by Cpl Paul J. Ridge who brought him in to our Troop command post located at 939191. Upon interrogation it was learned from the prisoner that he had marched all night from Schleiden (105153) (Map Central Europe 1/100,000 Sheet Bonn 8-1) to Monserath 952189 arriving just prior to making the attack.

Following the breaking up of the attack harassing fire both artillery and mortar was laid in on enemy positions in and around Monserath and continued all day long.

A patrol under Tec 5 Allen Anderson, including Pvt Ralph Norton and Pvt Casimer Bialecki was sent out during the day to patrol the area in the vicinity of 951191 but no further enemy activity was observed during the day.

17 December 1944.

During the night of Dec 16-17 the enemy kept up a continual harassing artillery fire on our positions from their batteries located back of Ingenbroich at about 960205, narrowly missing a direct hit on our number eight position on several occasions.

At daybreak, 0800A on the morning of Dec 17 the Germans attempted again to penetrate our positions. This time the attack by about fifty men came towards our number six position from the vicinity of 953187. The enemy was spotted by our patrol, under Tec 5 Allen Anderson, advancing towards our positions in extended formation and ready for battle. Word was sent to the Troop CP by radio from the patrol and once again fire was brought to bear on the enemy by requesting artillery fire from our Troop E and fire from our mortars on the vicinity of 953187. This barrage assisted by the fire from our caliber 50 machine gun at post 5 succeeded once again in breaking up the enemy attack and inflicting at least ten known casualties and taking several prisoners. The enemy was observed by our patrol to be retreating in disorder up the road into Monserath 953190.

At 0900A one German was spotted by Pfc Raymond Bannister, creeping along the hedgerow towards our post 7 (947186). When the German suddenly stopped and started to look around he was killed by a shot from the rifle of Pfc Bannister who was on guard at post 7.

About 1500A S/Sgt W.D. Llewellyn Jr accompanied by Tco 5 Floyd Smith and Pvt Harry Whetstone crept down the hillside to where the dead body of the German soldier lay in plain view and searched him for identification and any papers or documents of any value that could be found on his person.

A patrol under Cpl E. G. Jones, including Pvt Casimir Bialecki and Pvt Ralph Norton patrolled during the day from 0900A to 1630A in the area around 948188 but no further enemy movement was seen.

December 18, 1944.

On the morning of Dec 18 a patrol under Tco 5 Allen Anderson including Tco 5 Jack L. Van Order and Pvt Robert Stahl was sent out to patrol in the vicinity of 949185. While on patrol in this vicinity six dead Germans were counted by the patrol, the result of our artillery and mortar fire of the day previous. An enemy listening post was discovered at 948188 and was destroyed by artillery fire from our B Troop which was called for and directed by the patrol. One casualty was observed as the result of this action.

The rest of the day passed without any further enemy movement being reported.

  
JAMES J. O'BRIEN,  
1st Lt, 38th Cav Recon Sq (Mech)

REPORT OF SERGEANT CHARLES R. WEST 39127630  
PLATOON SERGEANT 2ND PLATOON, TROOP C, 38TH CAV REN SQ (MED2)

16 December 1944

At 05:15A on the morning of 16 December we had a very heavy enemy artillery barrage. One round landed in the trench in my sector. Several flares were used to our front. Entire platoon alerted during the barrage. All guns were manned. Alert continued until about 0800. No. 4 post reported movement on several different occasions during the day most of which was the movement of troops into pillboxes.

17 December 1944

Heavy enemy barrage. Things normal until 1000A, 100% alert for platoon. A few shells were dropped in before that, but only occasionally. At 1000A all positions were manned. Enemy artillery coming close, screaming meemies, mortars etc. Platoon remained alerted during the entire day. Several concentrations of our own artillery registered. Listening post was out as usual at K947190.

At about 1645A Pvt Butler saw what he thought friendly troops moving in the extreme left rear, vicinity of R.R. Tracks, about 50 yds from F Company position and in rear of Engineer outpost. Upon further investigation and observation determined that personnel was enemy. Sgt West opened fire with M-1 rifle, no fire received, broke up formations which numbered about 50. Patrol lead by Sgt Oundiff sent out to vicinity of enemy action which showed enemy equipment strewn over the grounds showing the enemy action that took place. There were also places on ground where it was evident that enemy had dragged out their dead and wounded. Patrol also found evidence where, by the grass having been trampled down, there had been a large concentration of enemy. Enemy was in a very dangerous position for F Company could observe from their position, and orders were given to cease fire. Further investigation proved that enemy could be seen and fire was immediately placed on the concentration. At least 5 men out of 50 did get back to enemy lines. Many casualties were inflicted on the enemy.

Post no. 1 at 2000A reported an enemy concentration to immediate front and opened fire with 50 caliber machine guns into the draw ahead of houses in front of trenches. Artillery from E Troop called for and was directed by Sgt West. This formation was broken up after the barrage was placed on them. Innumerable casualties were inflicted on the enemy. E Troop laid down a very beautiful barrage which lasted about 10 minutes. Enemy with drew, formation broken up. Sgt Oundiff greatly assisted in directing fire of artillery by taking a position to the East of Post no 1 and bringing down fire on advancing Germans. He stated that many Germans came through the fire.

About 1730A, further observation showed that another enemy concentration was coming in around B Troop area. Fired upon by second platoon from trenches, causing several casualties. Artillery fired upon them. Other concentrations fired upon, area shelled. Platoon alerted 100% rest of night.

18 December 1944

Everything normal during the day.

*Charles R. West.*

CHARLES R. WEST  
Sgt. Troop C, 38th Cav Ren Sq (Med)  
Platoon Sergeant

REPORT OF TEC 5 ALLEN J. ANDERSON  
Troop C, 38th Cav Reg Sq (Mech)

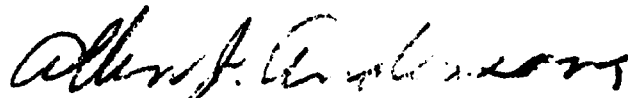
At 2000A on 17 December 1944 I was ordered to take a patrol out to investigate the area around HENZERATH and the "three chimneys" (X 951188). We carried a 509 radio to maintain communication with our C.P.

Shortly after 2100A we set up a listening post at the "three chimneys" (X 951188) and I put 3 trip flares out covering likely enemy approach lanes. I attached about 100 feet of wire to each safety pin and left a man on each grenade, ready to pull it. It was my plan that, if any enemy attack were made, to pull the flare pins, fire a few rounds, and retire to the F Company outpost.

After we set up the listening post, Corporal Jones and I maintained a roving reconnaissance in front of the fixed grenade position. We observed nothing until about 0400A when we saw a large number of men deploying from the locality to the right of the three chimneys. I estimated there were about 50 or 60 at least. We hurried back and ordered the listening post to withdraw as we were in danger of being cut off from the F Company outpost, or of being run down by the enemy. I contacted the Troop C.P. by radio and told them to get the artillery ready to fire concentration 45, which covered that area, and to have them stand by. I also reported our position as untenable and that we were withdrawing. The patrol then pulled back and I remained at the lower edge of the woods at (X 949189) to maintain contact with the enemy.

The Germans entered the upper edge of the woods at (X 951188), apparently deploying to positions from which to attack the F Company outposts. I withdrew and called for artillery fire at about 0510A, as planned. It came in about two minutes, very effective and covered the area thoroughly. It lasted for about 10 or 12 minutes and then I went back to the edge of the draw, as the artillery barrage ceased, and heard considerable grunting and unmistakable sounds of enemy withdrawal. I stayed until all sounds of enemy activity had ceased and, about 0640A, returned to the C.P.

The same day we returned to this area and found six (6) enemy dead. They had been stripped of identifications, weapons and personal belongings by their comrades.



ALLEN J. ANDERSON  
Tec 5, Troop C  
38th Cav Reg Sq (Mech)



**A F F I D A V I T**

**38TH CAV. RON. SQ. (MOB)**  
**A. P. O. 230 U. S. ARMY**

**9 January 1945**

**T/4 Anthony P. Straigis, A. S. N. 32638487, after being duly sworn deposes and says:**

**I was the radio operator on Sgt. Poll's Armored Car on liaison with the 99th Infantry Division, during the period this action took place.**

**On the morning of 16 December at about 0500A, we were subjected to heavy enemy artillery, mortar and small arms fire. Our area was severely hit and several buildings nearby, quartering men, were demolished.**

**The following morning, on 17 December at about 0530A, the enemy launched an offensive against the position held by I Company of the 99th Division. At 0700A, S/Sgt. Hill and Pfc. Serchia, both of Troop C, 38th Cavalry, came to our position checking communication lines.**

**At approximately 0730A, the enemy had infiltrated through the positions we held, and severed the crossroads at 947-171, which was the only exit from our position by vehicle.**

**A short time later, the Commanding Officer of the 395th Infantry, 99th Division, withdrew the 2nd platoon from the positions which they held and sent them to help relieve the 3rd platoon, which was at that time out off.**

**Sgt. Poll, upon seeing the 2nd platoon withdrawing, took the responsibility of pressing into service S/Sgt. Hill, Pfc. Serchia, plus the men already occupying the position, into the vacated positions, of about 400 yards in length. Sgt. Poll, without disregard of his own safety, dismounted the 30 caliber machine gun from our armored car, and proceeded to fire against dismounted personnel, who were setting up mortar positions, his concentration of fire demoralized the enemy, who withdrew.**

**At about 1000A, the same day, we were subjected to heavy direct artillery fire from 5 S. P. guns about a distance of 600 yards from our position. Again Sgt. Poll took the initiative, under heavy fire from these aforementioned guns, to take a compass reading on the guns, and direct counter-artillery, which eventually destroyed the enemy guns. He also directed friendly artillery throughout the day, with demoralizing effect upon the enemy.**

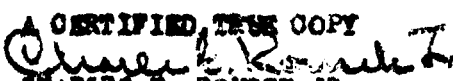
**At 1600A, the 2nd platoon returned to their former positions, and relieved Sgt. Poll. We were without communications to the Co. I O. P. for about 6 hours during the attack. The only communication that I had was with the Troop and Squadron Headquarters.**

**Further deponent sayeth not.**

**/s/ T/4 ANTHONY P. STRAIGIS**  
**/t/ T/4 ANTHONY P. STRAIGIS**

**Subscribed and sworn to me this 11th day of January 1945.**

**/s/ GEORGE L. ERWIN JR.**  
**/t/ GEORGE L. ERWIN JR.**  
**1st Lt, 38th Cav Ron Sq (Mob)**  
**Adjutant.**

**A CERTIFIED TRUE COPY**  
  
**CHARLES E. ROUBEK JR.**  
**Major, 38th Cav Ron Sq**  
**Executive Officer.**

Missions fired by Troop E, 38th Cav Rcn Sq (Mecz)  
from 160600A December 1944 to 170600A December 1944

COORDINATES	Number Rds.	Requested By	Time fired
TOTAL ROUNDS FIRED: 760			
95361912 & Area	50	C	0615A
95852032 & Area	54	B	0630A
95361912 & Area	65	S-3	0645A
95852032 & Area	20	S-3	0700A
95361912 & Area	25	S-3	0745A
94891850	30	F	0815A
94891850	15	F	0920A
94891850	15	F	0945A
94881858	15	C	1000A
95852032	25	C	1010A
94891850	15	F	1020A
95432051	10	C	1030A
94871797	5	F	1040A
94881858	10	C	1100A
94891850	7	F	1130A
95361912	20	C	1208A
95361912	25	C	1212A
94881858	35	C	1215A
95142003	43	C	1245A
95142003	11	C	1320A
95361912	25	C	1340A
96161900	50	C	1600A
95201925 Harassing Fire	13	S-3	1900-2000A
95802044 Interdiction	25	S-3	2100A
95321910	25	S-3	2110A
949195 Harassing Fire	18	S-3	2100-0600A
95201925 Harassing Fire	18	S-3	2100-0600A
95142003 Harassing Fire	22	S-3	2100-0600A
94871797 Harassing Fire	18	S-3	2100-0600A
95142003 Harassing Fire	24	S-3	0410A
95142003 Harassing Fire	27	S-3	0545A
Missions Fired by Troop E, 38th Cav Rcn Sq (Mecz) from 170600A December 1944 to 180600A December 1944.			

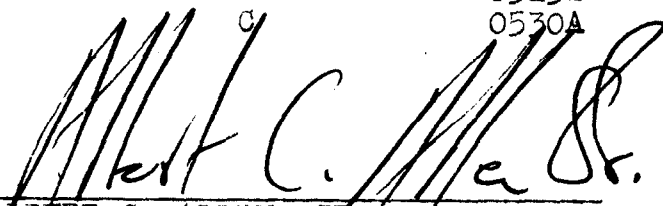
94891850	25	C	0615-0700A
95142003	10	C	0715A
95361912	40	CP#1	0915A
94801965	44	CP#1	0930A
958209	25	B	0935A
94522017	15	F	0945A
95142003	25	OP#1	1015A
949192	6	CP#1	1030A
94152050	70	B	1100A
959215	16	E	1130A
95171887	30	OP#1	1200A
944208-944225	124	B	1215-1245A
93862000-94102124	15	B	1320A
938206	47	B	1345A
94102059	46	F	1520A
95142003	40	OP#1	1530A
94652076	10	B	1600A
962191	96	OP#1	1830A
94641966	137	F	2115-2145A
952191	15	F	1800-2100A
95142003	15	B	1800-2100A
948195-96652017	101	S-3	2200-2220A
948198	153	S-3	2230A0600A

TOTAL ROUNDS FIRED: 1,105

Missions Fired by Troop E, 38th Cav Rcn Sq (Mecz)  
from 180600A December 1944 to 190600A December 1944.

COORDINATES	Number Rds.	Requested by	Time Fired
94641966	36	S-3	0600-0700A
95481730	29	OP#1	1100A
95501777	51	OP#1	1150A
95142003	76	C	1220A
95142003	81	C	1340A
96211900	28	C	1430A
95201940	20	C	1445A
95402070	10	E	1515A
94871797 & 94891850	93	S-3	1620A
95142003	30	OP#1	1800A
96251901	39	OP#1	2000A
962191	24	OP#1	2030-2045A
95941716	50	OP#1	2145A
95171887	25	C	2210A
95301934	29	C	2220A
94651885 & 9475184	32	S-3	1800-2000A
95941996 Harassing Fire	32	S-3	2300-0600A
94362076 Harassing Fire	32	S-3	2300-0600A
95402070 Harassing Fire	32	S-3	2300-0600A
95512022 Harassing Fire	32	S-3	2300-0600A
95512130 Harassing Fire	32	S-3	2300-0600A
94751840 Harassing Fire	32	S-3	2300-0600A
952187	10	Visual 5	0500A
957202	10	Visual 5	0515A
948218	10	Visual 5	0515A
95941716	20	C	0520A
95361912	20	C	0525A
94551965	16	C	0530A

TOTAL ROUNDS FIRED: 941

  
ALBERT C. ALLEN, JR., 1st Lt Cav  
Executive Officer Trp E

REPORT OF S/SGT WILLIAM F. FISHER, 35436173,  
Forward Observer, Troop E, 88th Cav Regt Sq

On 17 December 1944 I arrived at the 2nd platoon, Troop E at about 0900A and saw enemy personnel moving west at 934212. I did not call for fire because of friendly troops whose position was unknown at the time. I located a tank or SP gun firing direct fire from IMGENBROICH but could not adjust fire because of lack of communication. I reported this to the platoon leader. The gun later ceased firing and moved. About 1200A I moved to the house at 93352060 and saw two Germans surrender to E Troop and saw three more lying in a hedgerow too wounded to move. I located an automatic rifleman in a hedgerow at approximately 93482076 and killed him with my M1. I then moved to a house at 93482088 and located a machine gun nest at 938206 protected by riflemen on both flanks. I called for fire from Troop E and covered the area. I next adjusted fire in the draw. The machine gun was silenced and I found out later that four enemy were killed, eleven wounded and six surrendered to members of E Troop. I saw an enemy squad leader creeping up to the concertina wire and killed him with my M1. About 1800A or 1900A I was between 15 and 20 enemy personnel moving up the road at 94092063 toward IMGENBROICH. I fired on them with a .50 cal. to pin them down until I could adjust artillery fire. I adjusted the fire of Troop E on the area and the enemy dispersed and took cover in the house at 952898.

During the day I wounded at least two of the enemy by rifle fire in addition to the two I killed.

*Sgt W. Fisher J. J. Fisher*

WILLIAM F. FISHER  
S/SGT, 35436173

STATEMENT OF S/SGT. WALTER (NMI) ZUDROFF 12020660, FORWARD  
OBSERVER, TROOP E, 38TH OAV RON SQ (MEDZ)

DECEMBER 16

A heavy concentration of enemy artillery at 0530A broke my telephone communications with the Troop. I ran all my missions through O Troop, who relayed to the battery by radio.

At 0600A I fired a mission from O Troop outpost #8 at about 50 enemy personnel in the draw just west of MENZERATH 948188. The enemy was dispersed but no casualties could be seen because of the dim light of early morning. However, no further movements were made that morning in that place.

At 1000A approximately 20 enemy personnel were picked up at 94861858. I fired for effect one time but before I could get on them they had gotten to cover. Two stragglers were hit but got away.

At 1600A I fired at a group of Germans in MENZERATH (96161900). There seemed to be a lot of activity. I observed a few casualties but the majority of the personnel got to cover.

DECEMBER 17

At 0915A I fired at 95561912 at enemy personnel. They managed to get to cover before I could cause any casualties. I did register there in the hopes that I would see them there again.

At 0930A I saw a small group of personnel at 94801965. I registered and pinned them down. They finally crawled to cover but not until several casualties had been inflicted.

At 1015A I placed fire on a suspected mortar position. No results were observed but we received no more fire from that vicinity.

At 1030A O Troop's OP #2 picked up enemy at 949192. Before I could register on them they dispersed and took cover.

At 1200A I picked up 4 enemy tanks pulling into battery position in the vicinity of 95171857. I placed fire on them and blew up an ammo Trailer. However our guns could not knock them out, so I called S-2 and requested fire from larger guns. VAUDE was given the target and I adjusted their fire. Three of the tanks were knocked out. The other managed to escape from the concentration.

At 2200A a concentration of about 200 enemy personnel was picked up at 94641966 from O Troop's outpost #2. After getting on them I gave the Troop Fire at Will. VADEVILLE also had an observer there but he called his battery off after we got on the target. Screams and wns were heard coming from the area all night.

DECEMBER 18

At 1150A I fired at a group of enemy personnel at 95501777. There were five observed casualties. One wounded enemy was left to his own devices while those that were still alive went for cover. The wounded man was cut down by the following volley from the battery.

At 2145A enemy vehicles were heard in the vicinity of 95941716. Unobserved fire was placed in this area. No further vehicular movement was heard in the area.

  
S/SGT WALTER (NMI) ZUDROFF  
12020660

At 0630A December 17, 1944, Tec 3 Gier and Pvt Terrell were attacked at their position at 938198 by a company of Germans supported by mortar fire. They immediately opened fire from their tank position and were joined in firing by Sgt Struble and Pvt Moon, who were manning the second tank in alternate position. Tec 3 Gier notified Lt. Cullinan, platoon commander, of attack. Lt Cullinan requested position to try and take two (2) prisoners and then notified Capt Lewis, F Company, of attack. The outposts smashed the German attack killing fifteen (15), taking 2 prisoners, and splitting the German force in two directions. One group towards the draw at the hairpin turn and another group running back along draw to the north.

0705A - A heavy concentration of enemy artillery, mortar and rocket fire covered area of attack.

0715A - Sgt Struble and Pvt Terrell went out in front of Tec 3 Gier's position along RR track to seize two German prisoners and a number of German weapons, even though artillery and small arms fire was still raging. Mission successful.

0745A - S/Sgt Lindquist at tank outpost positions at 936203 and 935204 opened fire with two tanks to northeast on flank of Germans who were attacking B Troop. His fire caught 45 enemy penetrating B Troop's wire, killing 15 enemy and causing rest to scatter and fall back.

0825A - Tec 3 Gier brought 37mm fire on enemy mortar position which was supporting enemy attack on B Troop, knocking mortar out. At same time Sgt Struble in second tank position was laying .50 cal. and 37mm fire on fresh enemy troops moving up in draw at 939204.

0900A - Enemy again threw in another barrage of rockets at third platoon positions of Tec 3 Gier and Sgt Struble who at the time were firing to north along railroad track at fresh enemy troops moving into position.

1000A - During a short pause in the fighting, Lt Cullinan and Pvt Gerner distributing ammunition were fired upon by rifle and MG fire. Pvt Moon located enemy positions offire at 940202 opens with .50 cal. MG fire, knocking out position.

1015A - S/Sgt Lindquist position reports heavy artillery and mortar fire falling close between his two positions. Unable to get counterbattery fire as needed elsewhere. Calls Pvt Moon on tank at 938198, who is able to pick out mortar at 942203 and knock it out with 37mm.

1030A - Artillery of heavy caliber dropping in area of Sgt Struble support tank at 938197. This fire continued at rate of 10 to 20 rounds per hour.

1115A - Heavy MG fire from STILLBUSH coming into position at 938198. Pvt Moon in first tank and Sgt Struble in second tank engage and silence this position with 37mm fire.

1145A - Tec 3 Gier and Pvt Terrell in dugout positions at 938198 spot two Germans believed to be messengers moving back from attack area on B Troop. They open fire with MG at 400 yards, killing both enemy.

1200A - S/Sgt Lindquist in tank at 936203 spots 4-man enemy and MG crew moving up to set up gun at 937206. Holding fire till gun is set up, he opens up with 37mm HE and gets gun and 3 men of crew.

1245A - Sgt Struble and Pvt Terrell in tank at 938198 open fire with 37mm HE at 10 Germans at 942207, attempting to cross RR track. Their fire drove enemy back on road leading to IMENBROICH.

1330A - Ten rounds of artillery fell just forward of Sgt Struble's position at 938198.

1400A - Two ME-109's attacked and strafed Pvt Moon in tank at 938198, and Pvt Terrell in second tank at 936198. Both Pvt Moon and Terrell opened fire with .30 cal. AA guns. Although they did not bring down planes, they made it impractical for enemy planes to continue their strafing.

REPORT OF 1ST LT. ROBERT J. CULLINAN O-1032423  
COMPANY F, 58TH CAV RON 84 (MED2) CONT'D

1445A - S/Sgt Lindquist opens fire on 10 Germans at 940208, who were advancing on B Troop front. Sgt Lindquist opened fire with .50 cal co-axial and 37mm HE downing 5 Germans and forcing remaining five to withdraw.

1530A - Pvt Connors and Tec 3 Gier in tank at 958198 open fire with HE at MG fire from North of STILLBUSH at 948205. Their fire silenced gun.

1600A - Lt Cullinan and Sgt Struble fire at 55 Germans withdrawing from area 958208 towards RR track. Their fire disrupts withdrawal causing Germans to enter woods at 941208. Lt Cullinan directs E Troop artillery fire on to wooded area, causing heavy casualties to enemy.

1630A - Enemy small arms fire was at a minimum in third platoon area but artillery continued to fall at rate of 10 to 20 per hour, together with long range mortars.

1730A - 5 rounds of artillery between Pvt Connors and Pvt Terrell's tanks at 958198. All small arms fire in our area ceased at this time, making it apparent Germans had retreated. Third platoon then replenished ammunition expended and checked positions.

  
ROBERT J. CULLINAN  
1st Lt. Cavalry

REPORT OF 2ND LT KETZ, PLATOON LEADER,  
1st Platoon, Company F

17 December 1944

At 0600 the first platoon had its usual stand-to during which all the tanks were manned.

At 0630 Pvt Russell and Pvt Webb, mounted on the tank at 94051970, fired about 25 rounds of thirty caliber machine gun and a clip of tommy gun ammunition about 50 yards to their left front because they had heard a noise at the barbed wire around their position. It sounded as if someone were trying to cut the wire, and they also saw a faint green light, about fifty yards to their left front. They were unable to observe the results since it was still very dark. Pvt Lee, who was also on this tank, pulled one of the four flares installed at this position, but nothing could be seen or heard, so a few more rounds were fired into the hedgerow just in front of the wire.

At about 0730 some artillery and rockets went over our position and landed somewhere to our left-rear.

Everything was quiet till about 0750. The men were being dismissed from stand-to, and the phone had been taken up to the observation post in the attic in the house. At 0750 we heard machine gun fire from our left, evidently from the third platoons area. The platoon leader, first platoon, started up to the tank at 94051970 to investigate the cause of firing when Sgt Smith came running out of the house, having heard on the phone that the third platoon had seen three Germans on the railroad track at about 93851985, walking north. Sgt Smith and the platoon leader moved dismounted to the left of the tank at 94051970, till they were in position to look down the railroad track. At this point they saw the three Germans walking leisurely on the right side of the tracks, hidden from the gun of the third platoon. Sgt Smith and the platoon leader opened up with rifle fire. The three Germans hit the ground, two of whom did not get up again. The third, though evidently wounded, managed to crawl behind a small knoll from where he presumably made his way back to his lines. A fourth German started to come toward us with the intention of surrendering, when a gun from another unit's area on our right opened up and the German changed his mind about coming in and took cover before we could fire at him. This firing was at about 600 yards.

At 0845 seven Germans walked down the road toward the first platoon position at 941198 and surrendered.

About a platoon of Germans was seen in the vicinity of the woods at 941202, and the draw to the left of the woods. Artillery was requested but we were unable to get it since the area was too close to B Troop and the artillery was busy. Sgt Smith called Privs Lee and Kosick to continue the rifle fire on the railroad track and then instructed Privs Webb and Russell to deliver fire on the woods and draw with the 37MM, 30 cal. co-axial, and anti-aircraft guns of the tank. Prior to this, it was not possible to observe any enemy movement from the tank.

At about 0900 some more enemy artillery and rockets came over our position but did not land near us.

About 0915 some Germans were seen in the vicinity of Stillbusch (945202) by the platoon leader and in the hedgerow behind Stillbusch. There were scattered Germans attempting to go from Stillbusch, across an open field to Ingenbroich. We opened up with machine guns on the personnel, from the tanks at 94051970, and 94051980, and with the 37MM from these tanks on Stillbusch. The range to the personnel in the open field



was about 1000 yards, however several enemy were wounded and driven back to Stillbush, which was later put under artillery fire.

By 0930 we could see no more Germans out in the open although it was suspected and later confirmed, that there were still some in the woods at 941202, and at Stillbush. Our artillery destroyed a large number of these enemy.

At 1000 Sgt Martin led a patrol consisting of Tec 4 Buford, Pvs Ravin and Easterlin, along the railroad track and then to the right, to a point on the hairpin turn at 94051990 where five Germans had succeeded in penetrating far enough to set up a machine gun position. The patrol killed three Germans and captured two, and destroyed the position. This position was about 300 yards in front of our tank but we were unable to fire at it since they were under cover from our guns. Had the German position been strengthened and held it would have denied to us the use of the road and caused much damage.

At 1000 we received an order to fire 37MM HE into houses at 946196 and house at 947193. These houses were just in front of C Troop trenches. All three guns located at 94051970, 94051980 were employed for this firing. Pvs Lee, and Schandeny and Cpl Lee, the gunners, fired until they had only a few rounds of H. E. left. We reported that our Ammo was running low and it was later replenished about 1500.

At 1030 one tank from Hq platoon and one tank from first platoon position at 941196 were dispatched to give support B Troop, under Sgt Petrucci.

At about 1100 we ceased firing and there was no more activity in our area the rest of the day except that one German was seen in draw at 941203 about 1400. He seemed to be wounded and was using a stick to walk. He was moving away from us so Sgt Smith and Cpl Lee fired at him with machine gun at about 1500 yards. He was either hit or he took cover very quickly.

A small amount of artillery and mortar fire continued coming in the rest of the day but caused no casualties.

1500, ammunition was replenished in all tanks and weapons checked. Bores of 37 MM and machine guns were swabbed out. For the rest of the day crews were reduced to two men per tank while the remainder rested and cleaned their personal arms.

During 37MM firing at 1000 enemy artillery and rockets landed very close to our tanks but we sustained no casualties since all men were in tanks or under cover.

At 0915 one prisoner was taken by first platoon position at 941196. He surrendered.

At about 1130 three more Germans surrendered to same position.

  
HOWARD E. KETZ,  
2nd Lt, 38th Cav Rcn Sq (Med) 2

REPORT OF STAFF SERGEANT BERNARD C. BIELICKI  
PLATOON SERGEANT, 2ND PLATOON, COMPANY F, 36TH CAV REG SQ (MECZ)

16 December 1944

At 0530, the enemy artillery barrage cut all wire communication as we switched to radio and immediately started to repair the wire. We got the telephones working again at 0600. At this time T/5 Paine and Pvt. Walters reported they heard noises approaching from Menzerath Hill and Rohren and Hammer road. The platoon was alerted and Walters and myself went in front of our positions to investigate the noise. After we had gone about 20 yards along the Rohren Road, we stopped and could hear talking. We ran back to the position and a flare about 20 yards from us was tripped. We saw by the light of the flare, 5 enemy soldiers. We opened up on them with our T.S-MG, at the same time T/5 Powers and Paine fired at them from the tank with 37MM and MG. We wounded one and the other two hit the ground behind a stone wall. At the same time T/4 McDonald and Tachinski who were on the tank behind the slaughter house, also saw 3 enemy at 946180 and fired on them. When the firing started Sgt. Kirkley illuminated the area with 60MM mortar fired from his position at 944184. By the light of the mortar flares, he saw approximately 60 to 75 enemy advancing in approach formation at 948179. We called for artillery and got it on the approaching enemy. At the same time, Sgt. Messano's position at 946186 received small arms fire from the wood on Menzerath Hill. At 0715, Lt. Peppen arrived with about a squad of men that we used to try and fill in the gaps between our positions. At about 0745, the enemy tried to infiltrate our positions along the east side of the stream. Sgt. Messano spotted them, then he and T/4 Rice established a LMG position at 946184 and eliminated the penetration. At this time, we called for and got artillery fire on Menzerath Hill. At 0800, Sgt. Kirkley crawled into a wood shed in front of his position and was picking off the enemy at 946179. He killed one and wounded several. At 0830 a booby trap was tripped in front of Sgt. Messano's position and a German prisoner was captured by Sgt. Messano. At 0930, T/5 Powers was wounded by sniper fire. He went to the Aid Station and was treated and returned to duty in an hour.

One MCO TD arrived to reinforce the platoon. He was put in position to place direct fire on houses along Rohren Road where we believed some enemy troops had taken cover.

At 1115, Sgt. Kirkley spotted large groups of enemy, approximately 60 to 80 men, at 944177 and called for artillery which we got. Results believed to be good.

About 1015 T/4 Lucero saw where the sniper was firing from and asked permission to go get him, permission was granted and he killed the sniper.

For the rest of the day, we continued to receive long range sniper fire, which was ineffective, also sporadic artillery fire at about the rate of 20 or 30 rounds per hour. At 1400, the engineers arrived to replace all flares and booby traps that were tripped in the morning. Also to booby trap approaches from Menzerath Hill. Around 1600 we spotted, 3 Jerrys that had been pinned down all day. We got T/4 Steiner to call to them in German to surrender. They fired on Steiner and tried to make a break for it. Sgt. Kirkley and two men from the FA, shot and killed them.

Around 1700, LMG crews arrived from the TD's and Vacate. They were placed on the right of our positions.

At 1930, a TNT charge accidentally went off, wounding T/4 Lucero and T/5 Paine. Both men were treated, but not evacuated.

*Bernard C. Bielicki*

S/Sgt. Bernard C. Bielicki,  
Platoon Sgt., 2nd Platoon  
Company F, 36th Cav Reg SQ (MECZ)

REPORT OF STAFF SERGEANT KENNETH C. LINDQUIST  
PLATOON SERGEANT, 3RD PLATOON, COMPANY F, 38TH CAV REGT SQ (MECZ)

17 December 1944

At approximately 0745A a great deal of small arms, mortar and artillery fire came in on our platoon and we were notified that an enemy force was crossing the railroad in front of our position. My two tank crews at 956203 and 955204 spotted a force of Germans moving toward B Troop's outpost, which was to our left front.

We immediately opened fire on them with 37mm canister and our 30 caliber M2s. The enemy force was approximately 45 men. We killed about 15 and the rest scattered to cover in some shocks of hay, but we fired into the shocks and drove them back into the draw.

At approximately 1015A we were receiving a good deal of mortar and artillery fire and notified, Pvt. Moon at our other position who silenced the mortar by his 37mm gun fire.

At about 1200A, from our position at 956203 we spotted four Germans setting up a M3 at 957206. We let them get all set up, and then opened fire on them with M3 and 37mm, destroying the German M3 and killing 3 of the crew.

At 1445 we noticed about ten Germans moving toward B Troop's positions. We opened fire on them with 30 caliber co-axial and 37mm gun and killed about five and forced the rest to withdraw.

*Sgt. Kenneth C. Lindquist*  
S/SGT KENNETH C. LINDQUIST  
Platoon Sergeant, 3rd Platoon  
Co. F, 38th Cav Regt Sq (Mech)

REPORT OF JOSEPH C. GIER 32505371  
3RD PLATOON, COMPANY F, 38TH CAV REG SQ (MEO2)

17 December 1944

On the morning of December 17, 1944 at approximately 0630A, Pvt Terrell and I were on duty in our tank at 950198, when we saw about 50 Germans coming toward us we started laying fire on them immediately.

I called my platoon leader Lt. Oullinan and notified him of our situation and he said to try and take a couple of prisoners. The other tanks opened up and we managed to break up the attack and split them up into two groups, one going toward the Hairpin Curve and the other group going up the divide to the North. We killed about (15) fifteen of them and took two prisoners. These prisoners were taken at 0715A from in front of my position by Pvt. Terrell and Sgt. Struble.

At 0835A, I brought fire on an enemy mortar position that was supporting the attack on B Troop and knocked it out with the 37mm.

At 0900A, the enemy threw a barrage of rockets at Sgt. Struble's and my position while we were concentrating our fire. About 60 or 70 of the enemy East of the railroad track, as they were trying to get into position to attack B Troop.

At 1145A, Pvt. Terrell and I were in a dugout position near our tank, and saw two Germans falling back from B Troop area about 400 yards away from our position and we killed both with M-1 rifles.

At 1230A Pvt. Ganner and I were in our tank and he opened fire with the 37mm gun with HE and silenced the MG gun that was firing from north of Stillbush at 946205.

This is an account of what happened on the day of 17 December 1944.

*Joseph C. Gier*  
TWO 3 JOSEPH C. GIER  
3rd Platoon, Co. F.  
38th Cav Reg Sq (Moen)

C E R T I F I C A T E

18 January 1945

I certify that I personally counted thirty-two (32) Germans killed in the draw at 938198 thru 940200 as result of action of December 17, 1944.

/s/ Robert J. Cullinan,  
/t/ ROBERT J. CULLINAN,  
1st Lt., Cav.

C E R T I F I C A T E

18 January 1945

I certify that I personally counted five (5) Germans killed on the morning of December 17 in the area of the 1st platoon, Company F, 38th Cav Rcn Sq. Two (2) at 93951980, and three (3) at 94051985.

/s/ Howard E. Kette,  
/t/ HOWARD E. KETE,  
2nd Lt., Cav.

A F F I D A V I T

Hq 38TH CAV RGN SQ (MECZ))

APO 280 U. S. ARMY )

BERNARD C. BIELICKI, Staff Sergeant, 32034107, Co F, being first duly sworn on oath deposes and says:

I personally counted nine (9) Germans killed on the morning of December 16, 1944 in the area of 2nd platoon, Co F, 38th Cav Rcn Sq at the vicinity of SE edge of Menschenau.

Further deponent sayeth not.

/s/ Bernard C. Bielicki,  
/t/ BERNARD C. BIELICKI,  
Staff Sergeant, Co F.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 18th day of January 1945.

/s/ George L. Erwin Jr.,  
/t/ GEORGE L. ERWIN JR.,  
1st Lt, 38th Cav Rcn Sq (MecZ),  
Adjutant.

A F F I D A V I T

Hq 38TH CAV RGN SQ (MECZ))

APO 280 U. S. ARMY )

KENNETH C. LINDQUIST, Staff Sergeant, 20743336, Co F, being first duly sworn on oath deposes and says:

I personally counted 11 Germans killed on the morning of December 17, 1944, in the area of 3rd platoon, Co F, 38th Cav Rcn Sq at the vicinity of 946187.

Further deponent sayeth not.

/s/ Kenneth C. Lindquist  
/t/ KENNETH C. LINDQUIST,  
Staff Sergeant, Co F.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 18th day of January 1945.

/s/ George L. Erwin Jr.,  
/t/ GEORGE L. ERWIN JR.,  
1st Lt, 38th Cav Rcn Sq (MecZ),  
Adjutant.

CERTIFIED TRUE COPIES:

*Charles E. Rousek Jr.*  
CHARLES E. ROUSEK JR.,  
Major, 38th Cav Rcn Sq (MecZ).  
Executive Officer.

A F F I D A V I T

HQ 38TH CAV RON SQ (MCS))

APO 230 U. S. ARMY )

MARTIN P. MESSANO, Sergeant, 58295716, Co F, 38th Cav Ron Sq (MCS), being first duly sworn on oath deposes and says.

I counted four (4) Germans killed on the morning of December 16, 1944, in the area of 2nd platoon, Co F, 38th Cav Ron Sq (MCS) at the vicinity of 946167.

Further deponent sayeth not.

/s/ Martin P. Messano,  
/t/ MARTIN P. MESSANO,  
Sergeant, Co. F.

CERTIFIED TRUE COPY:

*Charles E. Rounek Jr.*

CHARLES E. ROUNEK JR.,  
Major, 38th Cav Ron Sq  
Executive Officer.

11 January 1945

S-2 Estimate of Enemy Forces to Immediate  
Front of 38th Cav on 17 December 1944, as  
Result of PW Interrogation.

The 1st and 2nd Bn's of 751st Regt, 326th Div. were in the sector to the immediate front of IMGENBROICH. They were in the pillboxes, trenches, and other fortified positions in this area. The 752nd Regt, 326th Div. was in fortified positions to the South of IMGENBROICH. The 753d Regt, 326th Div. was believed to be in Reserve. The eight 75mm's and the mortars of the 751st Regt were located in the draw to the rear of IMGENBROICH. All three regiments had two battalions each.

The mission of the 751st Regt in the attack launched from IMGENBROICH was to proceed to the railroad west of MONSCHAU, cross it, and then continue to advance at a left oblique to the original route, seize the MONSCHAU-EUPEN Road and held it until reinforced by the main attack which was to take place on the afternoon of 17 December 1944.

PW's from the 1st Bn, 752nd Regt, 326th Div, stated that the mission of the 752nd Regt was to take the high ground between MONSCHAU and HOFEN and held until the 18th of December 1944, when the main attack was to push through them.

*George R. Frink*  
GEORGE R. FRINK,  
Captain, Cavalry,  
S-2.

25 Jan 45

Consolidated Interrogation Report of P/W's captured 16-18 Dec 44: The Division given the honor of participating in the German offensive in the MONSCHAU area on 16 Dec 44 was the 326 VG Division. It was first identified on this front on 16 Dec when a messenger from I Bn 752 Regt, who had lost his way en route to the Bn CP was taken Prisoner in KESTERNICH.

P/W stated that the Div was reorganised in Hungary and came to TRIER three weeks ago. Since then the Div has been marching north by slow steps.

After a heavy artillery barrage in the morning of 16 Dec the I Bn of 751 Regt launched their attacks. P/W's were taken from 2, 3, 4 and 6 Co. They stated that their mission was to take HOFEN.

The 752 Regt was supposed to capture ROEHREN and the big objective for the Div was to take MONSCHAU. Upon attaining this objective the 2 SS Pz DIV DAS REICH and the GROSSEDUTSCHLAND Brigade were supposed to relieve the 326 Div and continue the attack.

Original strength of the two Bn's of 751 Regt was estimated at about 750 men. The Regt suffered already losses on their way to the front when our Airforce attacked the dam of the URFTSEE at which place elements of the Regt were bivouaced.

P/W's were told by the company commanders that they would participate in an all-out attack with support of Arty and the Airforce.

Their morale was pretty high before commitment.

/s/ Arthur Harf  
/t/ ARTHUR HARF  
2nd Lt AUS

A CERTIFIED TRUE COPY:

  
GEORGE L. ERTIN JR.,  
1st Lt, 38th Cav Recon Sq (Mech),  
Adjutant.



19 January 1945.

PRISONER OF WAR INTERROGATION REPORT

E X T R A C T

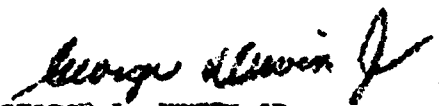
\* \* \*

6. e. Of interest was the Major's answer to the question of why the German Christmas offensive was unsuccessful. He said, "We failed because our right flank near MONSCHAU ran its head against a wall."

\* \* \*

/s/ C. M. Jenter G  
/t/ C. M. JENTER  
Capt., Infantry  
OIC, IPW Team No. 11.

A CERTIFIED TRUE COPY:

  
GEORGE L. ERWIN JR.,  
1st Lt, 38th Cav Recon Sq (Mech),  
Adjutant.

HEADQUARTERS  
Detachment I--4, Company G  
2d EGA Regiment

RAG/phb

APC 658  
22 December 1944

MILITARY GOVERNMENT PERIODIC REPORT

No. 78

0800 21 Dec 44  
0759 22 Dec 44  
LK MONSCHAU, Germany

Map: Central Europe, 1:100,000, sheet 3-1

E X T R A C T

x

x

x

3. IN APPRECIATION:

a. This detachment, individually and collectively, wishes to acknowledge a debt of gratitude to Visual. During the period that they occupied this area relations between these two units were always of the best. Their attitude was one of the understanding and cooperation, and their requests were always reasonable. It was not, however, until the tactical situation became serious on 18 Dec 44, and for three (3) days thereafter, that their presence was properly appreciated by us. As the other tactical units in the area were evacuated on 18 and 17 Dec 44 and demolitions were prepared on the bridges, the civilian population became apprehensive. The outward attitude of the officer and enlisted personnel of Visual contributed immeasurably to the restoration of civilian confidence in the ability of the United States Army to successfully defend this community against attack. Without this the control of the civilian population would have been most difficult, and the prevention of a mass evacuation of civilians would probably have been impossible. During this same period the staff of Visual, while occupied with a tense tactical situation, were always available to the personnel of this organization for information as to conditions. They remained, for a period of twelve (12) hours, the only contact available to us with the outside world. We are grateful for the opportunity to have worked with that organization.

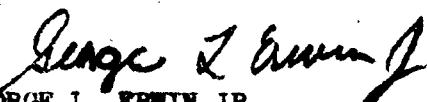
x

x

x

A CERTIFIED TRUE COPY:

ROBERT A. GOETCHEUS,  
Captain, Field Artillery,  
Commanding.

  
GEORGE L. ERWIN JR.,  
1st Lt, 38th Cav Ren Sq (Mecz),  
Adjutant

HEADQUARTERS  
Detachment I--4, Company G  
2d HGA Regiment

APO 658

\*\*\*\*\*

Dec 22nd

Dear Sir,

I tried to meet German troops near Monschau. As I could find there no German troops, I surrender because I am hurt and ill, and at the end of my physical forces.

Please be kind enough to send me a doctor and an ambulance, because I am unable to walk.

I am lying in bed at Mr. Bourscherd's, and am waiting for your help and your orders.

Yours sincerely,

Freiherr von der Heydte  
Colonel-Lt, Commanding  
the German paratroops  
in the section of Eupen  
and Malmedy.

The envelope was addressed to: "The Commanding Officer of the Military Government, at Monschau."

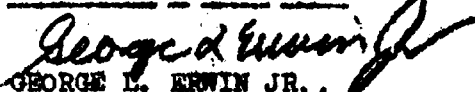
\*\*\*\*\*

CERTIFIED A TRUE COPY:

/s/ Jack E. Milner,  
/t/ JACK E. MILNER,  
WOJG, USA.

The above Nazi Officer making the request to surrender is reported as being the Officer requesting the surrender of the British Army at El Alamein in 1942.

CERTIFIED A TRUE COPY:

  
GEORGE L. ERWIN JR.,  
1st Lt, 38th Cav Recon Sq (Mech),  
Adjutant.

HEADQUARTERS SIXTY SECOND ARMED F. A. BATTALION

Rotgen, Germany  
22 January 1945

C E R T I F I C A T E

During the period 16th to 18th December 1944, I was Artillery Observer for the 62nd Arm'd F. A. Bn. in MONSCHAU - IMGENBROICH - KONZEN - Germany sector. This sector of the front line (approximately 8000 yards) was held by the 38th Cavalry Squadron, Mech. of the 102nd Cavalry Group Mech.

From an observation post I had a two story house about 300 yards West of our outpost line - which afforded excellent observation into enemy held territory. This observation post was located at map coordinates X 9310 - 2085, approximately 2000 yards NW of MONSCHAU, Germany.

During the early hours of 16 December there was very little enemy activity that could be seen. There was a normal amount of mortar and artillery fire coming into our lines. During the closing hours of daylight observation there was increased activity to be observed around the concrete fortifications of the Siegfried line immediately to our front. There wasn't however any increase in the amount of mortar and artillery fire. Wire communication to the Cavalry Troop CP's was difficult to maintain due to its being cut by mortar and artillery fire.

At 170630 December 1944 the enemy fired an extra heavy concentration of mortar and artillery along our front and around my OP. I could not observe the position from which this fire was coming due to absolute darkness. My communication (wire) to the troop CP's and outposts was cut by this barrage. I still had communication (radio) to my battalion CP and our Liaison Officer with the 38th Cavalry Squadron. I sent two of my men to repair the wire lines; it was eventually, and of necessity, connected into a line running between "B" Troop of the 38th Cavalry Squadron and their outposts.

At about 0700 hours first light permitted limited observation; I could observe only a limited amount of enemy activity which at this time appeared to be only normal activity. By listening to telephone reports to "B" Troop CP from outpost, and by the aid of outpost personnel I was able to place artillery fire on machine gun emplacements which were not visible from my position. Artillery fire was slow in arriving on first call due to necessary clearances of fires through Troop and Squadron Headquarters (these targets were short of a previously established no fire line).

At about 0930 hours my chief of section observed approximately fifty enemy Infantry 500 yards to my left (North) flank. I immediately called my battalion for fire, casualties could be observed and the remainder of this group of enemy scattered and appeared to withdraw.

While attempting to contact "B" Troop CP over the party telephone line I picked up information that a sizeable attack by the enemy was developing on our immediate front, and that the Tank Destroyer units to my front and flanks were to withdraw due to the enemy troops being too close in for effective fire on their weapons against an infantry attack. I had personnel remove the machine guns from vehicular mounts to ground mounts for more complete protection of my OP.

About 1030 hours the enemy (a hundred or more at any one time) could be ob-

served directly to my front and to my left flank, our outpost were being forced to withdraw. I adjusted fire on the enemy troops as close to friendly troops as safety to our own troops would permit. When the enemy was approximately one hundred and fifty yards from my OP I ordered my section to make preparations to withdraw to an alternate OP. The machine guns that I had stationed for protection of the OP were now firing on the advancing enemy infantry. No enemy vehicles were observed in or during this attack.

In an attempt to move my half-track from the OP position, it was first stuck on an iced road and then received an artillery hit in the transmission; it had to be abandoned for the time, leaving me without communication, radio or wire, to my Battalion CP. I went to "B" Troop OP and they were getting all available men into position to stop the attack.

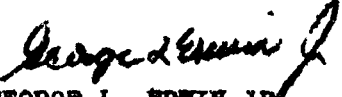
During this time my battalion had dispatched our Air OP to this vicinity and was ship firing into the sector of my last mission which was the gap through which the enemy was advancing, this fire I believe was a great aid in breaking this attack by slowing the enemy's advance allowing "B" Troop to select better defensive positions.

Since I did not have any means of communication to my battalion, I went to, another of our Battalion OP's about 1000 yards South. From the OP there I could observe a greater part of the sector covered by the abandoned OP. By using the radio of the second observer I reported the situation to my Battalion CP and contrived to adjust fire into the area of the breakthrough. The line formerly held by "B" Troop was restored later in the morning by "B" Troop personnel and by reserves from the Squadron.

The remainder of the day and through out the night of 17th and 18th December heavy concentrations of mortar and artillery fire fell in this sector. My section suffered casualties during this period.

With daylight of the 18 December I located an OP to afford better observation over the front of "B" Troop. Activity was back to normal at this time.

A CERTIFIED TRUE COPY:

  
GEORGE L. ERWIN JR.,  
1st Lt, 38th Cav Ron Sq (Mech),  
Adjutant.

/s/ James A. Comfort,  
/t/ JAMES A. COMFORT,  
1st Lt, 62nd Armd F. A. Bn

SIXTY SECOND ARMORED FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION  
APO 230

Rotgen, Germany  
210700 January 1945

C E R T I F I C A T E

During the period 16th to 18th December 1944 this battalion was assigned to 1st U. S. Army, attached to V Corps, attached to 102nd Cavalry Group, Mec. (38th Cavalry Squadron and 102nd Cavalry Squadron), in direct support of the Cavalry Group, and reinforcing fires of 308th F. A. Bn (78th U. S. Infantry Division) in the 78th Division sector of front.

The 102nd Cavalry Group sector of the front line extended from a point 1000 yards south of MONSCHAU, Germany (K95-18) to a point 1500 yards NE of LAMMERSDORF, Germany (K98-28), or a total frontage of approximately 16000 yards. The 38th Cavalry Squadron holding the right (southern) half of this sector, the 102nd Cavalry Squadron holding the left (Northern) half of the sector. Just previous to the period covered by this report the 78th U. S. Infantry Division had made an attack through the sector held by the 102nd Cavalry Squadron and was in position immediately to the Squadron's front, however the Squadron remained in position as a counter attack force.

This battalion had three forward observers covering the sector held by the 38th Cavalry Squadron, and a Liaison Officer at Squadron Headquarters. Observers were located as follows: (a) K948-255, approximately 1000 yards north of KONZEN, Germany; (b) K931-209, approximately 2000 yards NW of MONSCHAU, Germany; (c) K930-201 approximately 1000 yards NW of MONSCHAU, Germany during daylight period, during hours of darkness this observer would move to a position with front line troops at K 944-190, approximately 700 yards NE of MONSCHAU, Germany.

Prior to period covered by this report, there were few profitable artillery targets that could be observed. Counter battery, mortar targets, vehicular targets and harassing-interdiction missions were the bulk of missions fired. Profitable personnel targets were few due to protection afforded to enemy personnel by concrete fortifications of the Siegfried Line.

On the morning of 16 December 1944 our observers in the 38th Cavalry Squadron sector reported an increased amount of enemy activity. Personnel targets appeared in the vicinity of IMKENBROICH (K 96 - 20) and KONZEN (K 98-22) Germany, and were taken under fire.

During the 16th December, 33 missions were fired for our observers in the 38th Cav Squadron sector; twenty-two of which were observed fires, eleven missions were interdiction and harassing missions, six hundred eighty-two rounds of 105mm ammunition were expended on these missions.

On December 17 at 0550 hours to 0820 hours, eight missions were fired, for our observer located at K 930-209, targets were machine guns, and enemy movement, direct effect of the early fires could not be observed. At 0830 hours a rush call for fire was received from this observer (Lt James A. Comfort), target - enemy attack, fire was effective - casualties were observed. At 1050 hours another rush call was received - adjustment was made - our observer then reported that the enemy was nearing his OP - no other reports were received - we could not contact the observer either by radio or

Taking his last report and other information available we were able to continue to zone fire the area at the known point of penetration by the enemy. We immediately dispatched our two Air OP's to that sector to control and adjust fire on the more critical points. At 1130 a smoke screen was laid at K 941-201 to cover movement of our troops into and from the town of MONSCHAU. By 1200 hours the situation was clearing and settling to normal. At 1215 hours a target of personnel and vehicles in the town of IMGENBROICH was marked for fighter bombers. During the period 170001 December to 172400 December, seventy-three missions were fired, of which fifty-one were observed missions, twenty-two were harassing interdiction missions, one thousand nine hundred and forty-one rounds of 105 mm ammunition were expended in the 38th Cavalry Squadron Sector during this period.

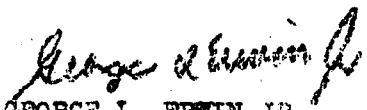
The early hours of 18 December 1944 were quiet with only minor activity observed. During the early afternoon five separate artillery pieces were taken under fire and silenced.

At 1600 hours our liaison officer with the 38th Cavalry Squadron called for fire on an enemy attack at K 954-173 between the towns of MONSCHAU and HOFEN, Germany. A heavy concentration of fire was placed in the area, fire was shifted when necessary by sensings given by Cavalry personnel who could observe this area. Many casualties were inflicted, the attack was broken.

At 2215 our observer at K930-201 called for fire to his immediate front, estimated one hundred enemy personnel approaching our lines, again a heavy concentration of fire was placed. At daylight on 19 December the results of the concentration were observed, a greater part of the estimated one hundred enemy personnel had been caught by our fire.

Sixty-nine (69) missions were fired on 18 December, forty-one (41) were observed missions, twenty-eight (28) were interdiction-harassing missions, one thousand eight hundred twenty-eight (1828) rounds of 105 mm ammunition was expended in the 38th Cavalry Squadron sector on this date.

A CERTIFIED TRUE COPY:

  
GEORGE L. ERWIN JR.,  
1st Lt, 38th Cav Ron Sq (Mecz),  
Adjutant.

/s/ David W. Way  
/t/ DAVID W. WAY  
Major, 62nd Armd FA Bn  
S-3

A F F I D A V I T

HQ 38TH CAV RON SQ (MECZ))

APO 230 U. S. ARMY )

JOSEPH B. PIRERA, 32918029, Private First Class, 17th Field Artillery Observation Bn, being first duly sworn on oath deposes and says:

On 17 December 1944, I was a member of a five man observation post in rear of the 38th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron lines at (X930217). Sergeant William Wieselles was in charge. At about 0645A on this date the enemy threw over a lot of shells, all along the line. There was a lot of small arms firing to our front and to the left.

At 0830A our CP called on the phone and told us to pack up and be ready to pull out. About an hour later the small arms fire started getting closer and we were all set to go, but the sergeant was still on duty in the wooden tower we used for an OP.

At about 1030A, while we were talking to our CP on the telephone, the line suddenly went out. Then there were four carbine shots fired nearby, and the sergeant called that we'd better get out of there. As he started down the ladder there were four rifle shots, and we called to him. Instead of getting an answer from the sergeant several men started yelling in German, from the woods just behind the tower. A minute later I saw one German soldier on the trail quite near us. He wore a long overcoat down to his ankles and was a very big man. While we watched him he called something in German and several other voices called back, also in German, coming from the north. I think there were about twelve (12) of them. As the Germans had us cut off from our vehicle, we took off through the woods and made for the Xupen road and reported to the CP of the 186th Field Artillery in Mutsenich.

Further deponent sayeth not.

/s/ Joseph B. Pirera,  
/t/ JOSEPH B. PIRERA,  
Private First Class, 32918029

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 22nd day of January 1945.

/s/ George L. Erwin Jr.,  
/t/ GEORGE L. ERWIN JR.,  
1st Lt, 38th Cav Ron Sq (Mecz),  
Adjutant.

A CERTIFIED TRUE COPY.

*Charles E. Rousek Jr.*

CHARLES E. ROUSEK JR.,  
Major, 38th Cav Ron Sq (Mecz),  
Executive Officer.



S-3 REPORT  
Sheet 2

FIRING

Unit 186 F.A. Bn

E X T R A C T

<u>Date and Time Received</u>	<u>No. of rounds</u>	<u>Remarks</u>	
16 Dec 1002	12	Vehicles	9572 2069
" " 1123	12	Town	9586 2050
" " 1606	12	Personnel	9572 2035
17 Dec 1950	24	Harassing	9503 2188
" 1950	24	Harassing	9435 2075
" 1950	24	Harassing	9490 1957
" 1950	28	Harassing	9563 1943
17 Dec 2110	20	Harassing	9622 2054
" 2110	20	Harassing	9626 2022
" 2110	20	Harassing	9634 1967
" 2110	20	Harassing	9818 1926
" 2110	12	Harassing	962 186
" 2110	12	Harassing	962 189
18 Dec 0810	16	Infantry	953178 951169
" 0815	16	Infantry	948 196
18 Dec 0915	12	Tanks	972 154
" 1010	19	Infantry	9606 1850
" 1325	8	En. Gun	962 202
" 1325	8	En. Gun	968 198
" 1430	10	Harassing	9886 2171
" 1430	10	Harassing	000 188
" 1430	10	Harassing	0000 1914
" 1430	10	Harassing	9816 1828
" 1430	10	Harassing	9714 1697

/s/ R. V. Fingerhut.  
Major, F. A.,  
S-3

A CERTIFIED TRUE COPY

*George L. Erwin Jr.*  
GEORGE L. ERWIN JR.,  
1st Lt, 38th Cav Ron Sq (Mcs),  
Adjutant.

REPORT OF CAPTAIN GEORGE R. FRINK S-2, 38TH OAV. RON. SQ (MEOZ) OF DEAD  
GERMANS REPORTED BY TROOP C, 38TH OAV. RON. SQ. (MEOZ)

1. The members of Troop "C" 38th Oav Ron Sq (Meco) were told to submit statements on the number of dead Germans they counted on the 16, 17, 18 December 1944. The following is a tabulation of results of these statements:

<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>TOTAL NUMBER</u> (Average of individual counts)	<u>OBSERVED BY</u>
952194	22	Sgt Giamuzzi Pfo Haney
955191	15	Tec 5 Emmitt
943201*	10	Sgt Poll Pfo Barry
949194	15	Pfo Barry
957207*	5	Pfo Pitre
947196	10	Pfo Baker
951196	15	Sgt Turbeck
941198*	10	Sgt Turbeck
948175	8	Sgt Poll )
948180	2	" " ;
952187	10	" " )
949195	10	" " ;
942196	3	Tec 5 Hernandez
957206	7	Tec 5 Hernandez Pfo Pitre & Sgt Clark
941198*	2	Tec 4 Walton Sgt Gundiff
957205	6	Tec 4 Walton Opl Walbel
941201*	2	Opl Watts, Pvt Warner Tec 5 Turner
949193	11	Opl Watts Tec 4 Walton
949196	7	Sgt Gundiff Pfo Butler
958204	8	Pfo Butler
940200*	6	Pfo Dahl
949194	7	Opl Tribble
946196	11	Opl Tribble
954202	4	Pfo Stewart

<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>TOTAL NUMBER</u> (Average of individual counts)	<u>OBSERVED BY</u>
945198	5	Lt Coleman S/Sgt Engel
951198	10	Lt Coleman S/Sgt Engel
947189	1	Lt O'Brien
950187	6	Tec 5 Anderson
950190	9	Tec 5 Van Order
954209	3	Sgt. Sullivan
955209	1	Sgt. Sullivan
956207	4	Sgt. Sullivan

Total count for  
entire Troop  
156

\* Indicates bodies also counted by Troop "B", 58th Cav Reg Bn (Moz).

*George R. Frink*  
GEORGE R. FRINK  
CAPT. CAV. S-2